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COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
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Agenda item 3

ISSUES RELATING TO THE FUTURE WORK OF THE COMMISSION

Revised draft decision submitted by the Chairman on the basis of informal consultations

Issues relating to the future work of the Commission

1. In accordance with the provisions of paragraph (a) of the decision on issues relating to the future work of the Commission on Sustainable Development, adopted by the Commission at its organizational session (E/1993/25 and Corr.1, para. 3), the Commission will decide at each session, on the basis of its agenda, on the need for and the number of informal negotiating groups, as well as other specific sessional arrangements for its work, on the understanding that the number of such groups will not exceed three during a particular session and that no more than two of those will meet simultaneously. The proceedings of the informal negotiating groups should be interpreted in all official languages of the United Nations.

2. The Commission requested the Secretary-General to take all appropriate measures to ensure that the reports of the Secretary-General for the Commission are distributed not less than six weeks before its meetings in all official languages of the United Nations, in accordance with paragraph 6 of General Assembly resolution 45/238 B.

3. The Commission encourages the participation of ministers in its high-level meetings.

4. The Commission decides that, as a rule, its high-level meetings should last for a period of up to three days and that they should be integral parts of the sessions of the Commission and of its decision-making process. The organization of work of the high-level meetings should provide, inter alia, for an open exchange of views among the participants, as well as for holding informal meetings as the need may arise to resolve outstanding issues related to its work that require high-level consideration.

5. The high-level meetings should provide necessary political impetus to the implementation of decisions of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and the commitments contained therein, as adopted. The meetings should further provide for an integrated overview of the implementation of Agenda 21, consideration of urgent and major emerging policy issues brought to its attention and, in a focused way, of the outcome of discussions held in the Commission. The result of the high-level meeting may be a concise document, should the participants deem that appropriate.

6. In accordance with the provisions of paragraph 18 of General Assembly resolution 47/191, the Commission should submit its report with agreed consolidated recommendations to the Economic and Social Council and, through it, to the General Assembly. The sections of the report of the Commission corresponding to particular substantive agenda items could also contain brief summaries of the discussions held. Such summaries are to be prepared by the Rapporteur with the assistance of the Secretariat and shall be approved by the Commission in the context of the adoption of its report.

7. Bearing in mind the functions of the Commission, in particular those contained in paragraph 3 (a) and (i) of General Assembly resolution 47/191, the Commission requests the Economic and Social Council and, through it, the General Assembly to decide on the arrangements required so that the relevant reports or parts thereof of their subsidiary bodies dealing with issues related to sustainable development will be made available to the Commission.

8. The Commission requests the Economic and Social Council to invite relevant organizations of the United Nations system, including international financial institutions and the Global Environment Facility, to prepare specific reports on their activities to follow up the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, focusing on ongoing and future projects and initiatives related to its multi-year thematic programme of work. In that context, the Commission requests the Secretary-General to prepare annually a consolidated analytical report which would synthesize information related to United Nations system activities to implement Agenda 21, outline gaps and assess progress achieved and clarify organizational responsibilities, taking fully into account the report of the Inter-agency Committee on Sustainable Development and other relevant contributions of the Administrative Committee on Coordination.

9. The Commission further invites, through the Economic and Social Council international, regional and subregional intergovernmental organizations outside the United Nations system to prepare and submit to the Secretary-General reports on their activities related to sustainable development, focusing on ongoing and future projects and initiatives related to its multi-year thematic programme of work. The Commission requests the Secretary-General to prepare annually a report containing an analytical summary of relevant activities of such organizations. This report will be considered by the Commission, together with the reports mentioned in paragraph 8 above, with a view to elaborating policy recommendations aimed at ensuring effective collaboration and greater complementarity of activities of intergovernmental organizations, both within and outside the United Nations system.

10. The Commission recommends that the reports requested in paragraphs 8 and 9 above should be prepared on the basis of comparability of information contained.

11. The Commission requests the Secretary-General to prepare analytical summaries of reports that the Commission may wish to specifically request from one or more organizations of the United Nations system in the future, when such reports are highly technical or specialized in nature.

12. The Commission recommends that the report of the High-level Advisory Board, containing its expert advice on issues related to the implementation of Agenda 21, be submitted to the Commission through the Secretary-General. On the proposal of the Secretary-General, the Commission could invite members of the Advisory Board to provide advice to it during its sessions.

13. The consideration of contributions from non-governmental organizations should be based on the procedural arrangements for the Commission set out in Economic and Social Council decision 1993/215. The Commission may decide on specific arrangements for holding special informal meetings during its sessions in order to have a direct informal dialogue with representatives of non-governmental organizations and major groups.

14. This decision does not preclude any other decisions regarding methods of work that the Commission may wish to adopt in the future.